UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/288
11 April 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 11 APRIL 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am writing to you with reference to the report of the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia (S/1995/255) of 31 March 1995 and, upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to state the following.

In paragraph 34 of the above-mentioned report, it is stated: "In March, United Nations airfield monitors working at civilian radar screens at Surcin Airport near Belgrade observed 26 tracks of likely helicopter flights moving from Bosnia and Herzegovina into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia". The report also states that none of the alleged flights was observed by Mission personnel from the ground.

On the basis of extensive investigation, however, the competent Yugoslav authorities can confirm that throughout March 1995 there were only six helicopter flights from the Republic of Srpska to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and vice versa. The purpose of all those flights was the transport of the critically wounded. Four of those flights were effected with the authorization of UNPROFOR and two without. Those two were emergency medevac flights that had to be effected since the transportees were in a life-threatening condition and it was not possible to wait for approval. Other than those, there were no flights from the Republic of Srpska to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and vice versa.

It is absolutely excluded that the flights referred to in the report of the Co-Chairmen, except the six medevac flights mentioned earlier, were those carried out by helicopters of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or the Republic of Srpska. The difference in number of flights observed (26) by the United Nations airfield monitors at Surcin Airport and the number which actually took place (6), can be explained by the UNPROFOR reports regarding apparent violations of the ban on flights in the airspace of Bosnia and Herzegovina where, on several occasions, it is explicitly stated that the alleged flights above the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia faded away from the screen and it could not be determined where the helicopters landed.

A possible explanation is that what is involved are flights of helicopters of the Bosnian Muslim side which flew from central Bosnia to the Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia close to the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Such a conclusion is justifiable from the technical point of view since it is illogical that the radar of the Regional Flight Control at Surcin Airport (Belgrade) is more reliable in detecting flight tracks of helicopters at a greater distance (in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina) than at a shorter one over the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia itself.

It is also possible that special electronic devices were engaged to deliberately simulate flight patterns and put the blame on the Bosnian Serb or the Yugoslav side.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.